

REMARKS

Claims 14 and 25-26 are pending. Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 10, 11 and 13 are being canceled in order to simplify the issues on appeal.

1. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 14 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,474,920 ("Lin '920").

It is submitted that Lin '920 does not disclose an elongate threaded coupling member having an engaging portion corresponding to the oblong slot of the first member and removably engaging the oblong slot.

The Office action states that Lin discloses "an elongate threaded coupling member having an external thread set (40) and an engaging portion (58) corresponding to the aperture of the first member, said threaded coupling member removably engaging the aperture..."

It is submitted that coupling member (44) defines the external thread set (40) and that ball element (58) is not part of coupling member (44) in Lin. It is further submitted that no portion of engaging coupling member (44) removably engages the aperture (54). In other words, coupling member 44 does not have an engaging portion having a shape corresponding to an oblong slot and which engages the oblong slot of a first member.

In comparison, claim 14 requires an elongate threaded coupling member having an engaging portion corresponding to the oblong slot and removably engaging the oblong slot, i.e., the threaded coupling member has a slot-shaped element which engages the oblong slot of the first member.

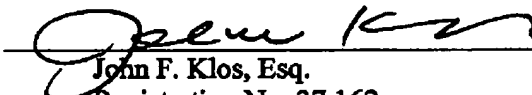
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the pending claims and arguments. Applicant respectfully submits that, as amended, the subject application is in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is kindly requested. Should the Examiner wish to

discuss these claims further, or should an Examiner's Amendment be needed in order for the claims to proceed to allowance, the Examiner is invited to direct any questions regarding this application to John Klos at (612) 321-2806.

Respectfully submitted,
Tennant Company, by its attorneys,

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